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To the Honorable
John Hancock Esqr. 15 Janry 1777
President of the Hon the Continental Congress

Sir

We beg leave through your hands humbly to communicate to the Grand Representatives of the United States by our trusty friends viz Doctor Jonas Fay Col Thomas Chittenden and Jacob Baley. Capt Heman Allen and Doctor Reuben Jones the declaration and petition of the Inhabitants of the District of Land described in the memorial Thereof and of They are persons duly delegated by the united and unanimous voices of the representatives of the whole body of settlers on the described premises, in whom is reposed the trust and management of persuing and negociating the business Thereof. We do therefore desire they may be received by your honors as such

I am Sir with sincere sentiments of esteem. your Honors
most obedient and humble Servants
By order and behalf of Convention Joseph Bowker Chairman

Attest Ira Allen Clerk

New Hampshire Grants
County of Cumberland
in General Convention
January 15th 1777

235. 19

Pennington 18 September 1777

Dear Sir

I am directed by the Council to inclose You a copy of a Letter just rec^d from General Gates by Which will be seen the importance of the Exertion of the Militia at this Critical Juncture for the Salvation of this State & if not the whole Country therefore it is Expected that You will Exert Yourself & come forward with all the Militia You can raise out of Your Regiment without one Moments loss of Time General Gates has Sent to, the State of Massachusetts and ordered Per Express to Send to N. Hampshire which we have done & to the upper Regiments in this State I am by order Your most Ob^t Servant

by

Thomas Chittenden P.

N B I heard by Capt. Dewey that Your People now with the Army are like Sheep without a Shepherd & very uneasy at Your being absent & threaten to come off with General Starks men.

by order by

Thomas Chittenden

Colonel Wm. Williams

Copy Exam^d Joseph Dayton

Mount Independence Oct 30th 1777

235:20

Col Samuel Hennech

Sir I was very much surprised three days ago when informed that Capt Allen under the sanction of a White flag without or Drum or even a letter from you presumed to approach this Garison; but imputing it to ignorance of the rules of War I dispensed him to return. after informing him that no more flags would be admitted under such trifling pretences notwithstanding which Capt Clouh came here yesterday in the same unmilitary manner and with still more trifling excuse, As I am determined not to admit any more flags of truce only upon occasion of real Consequence and properly attended I send Ensign Cranefore of the Kings Royal Regiment of Artillery to inform you of my resolution to look upon all such persons as shall approach the Garison in that irregular manner and to treat them accordingly. Ensign Cranefore believes with Captain Clouh which makes it unnecessary to send a Drum with him

I am Sir your most obedient Servant

H. Watson Powell B. General

Pawlet wou 17th 1777.

235.21

To the Honorable Brigadier General Powell
Commanding at Bennt Independence

Sir

By the time ~~you~~ this comes to hand I hope you will have recovered from the surprise with which you have been repeatedly affected since my correspondence with you. — You impute my conduct to ignorance of the rules of War. I hope Sir I have not been guilty of ill manners. If you please Sir I am ready to conclude the trifling correspondence with you provided you will quit the ground immediately on which you now pretend to teach me military rules. otherwise I shall endeavour to convince you at the head of my Green Mountain Boys. that your dominion is but temporary. I am Sir sincerely your most obedient humble servant.

Samuel Herrick Col Commandant

Poultet november 14th 1777.

235:22

Sir I have the pleasure to inform you that the Enemy have abandoned Ticonderoga. Mount Independence and on Saturday last after demolishing all the Fortifications. Bridges. Burning all the houses. and destroying all Stores. Cannon &c which they could not bring off, their retreat was precipitate indeed as appears by many circumstances. A few days before I was informed by deserters that their shipping and a number of Boats were loaded for St Johns who had orders to return immediately to fetch more loading. About that time I ordered Capt Ebenezer Allen with 60 Rangers down to Lake Champlain with orders to take two armed vessels by Stratagem and to secure what provisions. Forages he could. Capt Allen was joined by Capt Lee of Rutland and a considerable no of the Inhabitants and Renters a few days after which enlarged Capt Allen detachment to about 200. I suppose they had not yet recovered from the surprise which my letters of surprise occasioned them. when Capt Allen detachment was discovered on the Lake a few days after which made them suppose I was serious in my hinted project and being afraid that their retreat would be cut off at the narrows they immediately began their retreat on the 3d instant and finished the whole on Saturday last. Major Wait is gone with 75 men to take possession and to secure Stores Cattle, Horses & boats if the enemy have left any, Capt Allen is now harrassing the enemys Rear endeavouring to take some straglers &c

I am Sir your most obedient

Samuel Herrick

To the President of the
Council of the State of Vermont

Albany 30th 1779

To his Excellency Henry Laurens President

By this express I have the pleasure to send your Excellency the particulars of the Enemy retreat from Ticonderoga. Lieutenant Col Hamilton and his Regiment of militia from the Grants under the Command have much merit and deserve applause for their unremitable and spirited behaviour as well before or after the abandonment of that Fortress. I am pleased they got so large a booty from the Enemy which will be some recompence for the hardships they must have suffered. The weather having been remarkably severe

I have the honor to be
with the highest
Consideration
Your Excellency's
most obedient
humble Servant
Horatio Gates

Pennington 28 May 1778

Sir

I rec'd your Excellencys Dispatches this day with a Brevet Commission. I esteem the approbation of Congress your Excellency, and my country in general above gold and silver: am now recruiting my constitution. and for that purpose have laid out a certain regimen of diet and exercise The Enemy keep their Ships of War cruising on the Lake but do not as yet infest our extensive frontier tho it has been expected that they will - they made an attempt in March but were beaten by the Green Mountain Boys three to one

I am Sir with the greatest esteem
Yr Excellencys Most Obt Servt
Ethan Allen

General Washington

To the Inhabitants of the State of Vermont.

Gentlemen 27 Nov. 1778

Whereas the General Assembly of this State did appoint me to wait on the Honorable Meshech Weare, Esq; President of the Council of the State of New Hampshire with a Letter from his Excellency Thomas Chittenden, Esq and another from Col. Ethan Allen, &c. And whereas several of the Members of the Honorable Council and Assembly of this State, desired me to write to them (on my return from New Hampshire) the State of affairs relative to the Union with Sixteen Towns east of Connecticut-River and the State: I therefore beg leave to state the following as a short state of the matter, viz.

When I arrived at Exeter found the General Assembly then sitting, delivered said Letters to the President who after examining the same in Council, sent them to the House for their inspection: the said Letters were again read and largely discoursed on, and a Committee appointed from both Houses to answer the same — I being then present besides having many other conferences with the Members of both Houses; found that they were unanimous for maintaining Inviolable their Jurisdiction to the East Banks of Connecticut-River; but that they had no disposition to interfere with the State of Vermont in its first described limits which will more fully appear by their Resolution in the affair of Mr Hawley, and an Extract of President Weare's Letter to Col. Ethan Allen. are as follows, viz.

State of New Hampshire, "In the House of Representatives

Nov 10th 1778

"According to the Vote of the House of this day, the Honorable Council and House being met in the Assembly Chamber, the Honorable Meshech Weare, Esqr; in the Chair, proceeded to take under Consideration the Petition of Nathaniel Havey, prefered to the Honorable Committee of Safety of this State on the 24th of September last, and the further transactions thereon — and upon consideration of the same, came to the following Resolutions and reported that Two Hundred Pounds be Granted to the said Havey, out of the Treasury, by order of the President, for his present necessities, to be by him accounted for; and that the persons named as Riters in this complaint and Petition, together with Nehemiah Estabrook of Lebanon, be notified to attend the hearing of said Petition before the General Assembly if sitting, or Committee of Safety of this State in the recess, on the second Thursday of December next, and that the Secretary be directed to issue proper notices to the said persons; and that Capt. Samuel Atkinson of Boscawen be directed to Notify them accordingly, which Report was read and accepted."

Sent up for concurrence.

John Dudley, Speaker, Pro. Tem.

A Copy Examined by E. Thompson, Sec'ry.

As you have been so full and explicit in your own sentiments, I trust the Body of your People will be of the same

opinion; as I am sure every sensible person will; notwithst-
anding blind designs of some uneasy and never to be content-
men; whose Views must certainly be more detrimental to yo-
than possibly can be to New Hampshire. — What ever may be
determined by Congress relative to the acknowledgement of you-
Independence will be freely acquiesced in by this State.

I find by enquiring into the situation of the Grants (so-calle-
East of Connecticut River, that the Towns in the County of Chester
are almost Unanimously Represented in the General Assembly
of New Hampshire - and that about twelve Towns in the
County of Grafton are also Represented in the Assembly of
New Hampshire - and that in the sixteen Towns in connexion
with this State by said Union, there is a large Minority in
opposition to said Union.

Amongst the arguments made use of by New-Hampshire
to support their Claim to Connecticut River are the follow-
ing.

That by the determination of the Court of Great-Britain
in establishing Provinces in North America, said Lands were
included in the Jurisdiction of New Hampshire, and in consequence
of that many Charters for Towns was granted by the Governor
of said Provinces with all the Privileges and Immunities tho
any other Towns in said Province did enjoy, which they held
under the Crown until the Revolution, at which time
circular Letters was sent to the several Towns thro' that
Province, to Choose Members to form a Congress to transact
the political business of the State; at which time several of

these Towns now in Union with this State sent Members.
About a year after a second Congress was chosen, and some of said Towns sent members. said Congress then established a plan of Government which was to remain in force until the exigences of the State would admit of more leisure time to form another, which plan of constitution said State has ever since and now remain to be governed by. Since the depreciation of Money, an additional pay has been given by the State of New Hampshire to Militia of said State, in addition to their Continental pay when in such service; which pay has been chearfully received by the Militia of said Towns.

Thus Gentlemen I have given you a short state of facts, agreeable to the best information I can get. by which you will observe that the State of New-Hampshire are willing that the State of Vermont should be a State in its first describ limits west of Connecticut-River.

I have also to observe, that by several authentick accounts lately received from the Honerable Continental Congress, that the Delegates are willing that the State of Vermont should be a State within its first described limits, (the Delegates of New York excepted) which fully appears from that Honerable Body's not paying any Resolves against any of the proceedings of the State of Vermont since its first formation, altho' often requested by New York.

Having met with several printed papers published by order of those Gentlemen that withdrew from the General Assembly of this State, at their Sessions in October last:

But as I did not design this Letter for an answer thereto shall make but few remarks thereon.

In the course of which papers there is a request to all Towns on the Grants on both sides of the River, whether united with the State of Vermont or not. to send members to form a Convention to consult and agree upon measures whereby we may all be united together, by being and remaining a distinct State on such foundation that we may be admitted into Confederation with the United States of America, and under their protection, &c.

A very large part of the Towns on the Grants west of the Mason Line, and East of Connecticut River, are Represented in the General Assembly of New Hampshire, and consequently they are Represented in Congress: therefore they cannot withdraw from New-Hampshire, and connect with any other body politic, and present themselves to Congress to be taken into Consideration by the way of New Hampshire.

The way them Towns could act were they to send members to said Convention, would be to act on the latter clause of the Warrant, which is to claim the antient Jurisdiction of the Government of New-Hampshire, and in that way defend ourselves against the pretended right of Jurisdiction of any other State, and thereby become one entire State according to the extent of New-Hampshire Province as it stood before the Decree in 1764 took place— But whether this is the design of the Convention or not I leave the candid reader to determine.

I appeal to every person's own conscience in the State of Vermont, whether, when the Inhabitants on the west and east sides of the Green Mountains, first connected together to become one body politick, they did it under a view that the Grants east of Connecticut-River would join them, and if it had not been for that, they would not have joined in said plan.

All those that did unite together in one body politick to form a State west of Connecticut-River, will, I doubt not on due consideration, persue that desireable object; (if any difficulties should arise so as unhappily to seperate those Towns east of Connecticut-River from this State) for in that view of the case we should then injoy all we first expected; and as the Constitution of this State is so happily calculated to preserve inviolable the rights of the people; and as in it there is ample provision made for the propagation of the Gospel, together with proper Seminaries and Schools of learning which are among the greatest blessings of God in his wisdom ever bestowed on the fallen race of man

By what has been elucidated, it appears that the State of Vermont is in favor with the United States of America: therefore, if the people in said State are, and continue steadfast to maintain the the same, they will without doubt support the Independence of said State as long as the United States do theirs.

Since the choice appears to be in the breast of the good people of this State whether they will be governed by the agreeable Constitution they have made, or lay that aside and seek for connections with a neighbouring State which is done in debt

and whose known plan of representation is by numbers, so that it would take five or six of our new Towns to send one member and when we consider those infant plantations have gon thro' numberless fatigues and expences to defend their just rights from the arbitrary power of New-York; and since this present contest we have been a frontier to three neighbouring States, our inhabitants have been obligd to flee before their enemy, our Soldiery often called fourth by alarms, who have fought and bled nobly in the field for the defence of their country — Is there not a much greater probability that we should be considered for those extraordinary difficulties, by the Honorable the Grand Council of America, in defraying the expence of this unnatural war, than by the legislature of any State whose private interest would be nearer connected with ours.

I doubt not but every reasonable person will, on due deliberation determine that it is best, wisest, cheapest for the good people of this State, to steadily pursue their plan of government which will transmit to posterity the blessings of a free State.

I am, Gentlemen with due respect
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Ira Allen

Tresden, November 27th 1778.

N.B. The Laws of the State is come to hand, and will be ready for Sale in a short time